Ambassador Christopher Stevens lost his life on Sept. 11 while doing his job representing the President. But never forget that our ambassadors are also intelligence collectors. By wading in among the Libyans, from going to dinners at the homes of Libyan leaders to talking with ordinary people in the streets, he was gathering both important opinions and intelligence minutiae. It’s that daily immersion in the dynamics of a society that has always made the U.S. ambassador’s personal take on a situation as important as the judgment of any intelligence agency.

Read more: http://world.time.com/2012/09/25/why-the-benghazi-consulate-attack-will-blind-the-u-s/#ixzz27VjlVI9z